

Michigan House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
Rep. Frank Foster

March 8, 2012

Dear Rep. Foster:

I'd like to strongly give my support in favor of HB 5414, which I know you have sponsored. Not only does it contribute significantly to energy savings, it helps preserve our great natural resource of a truly dark night sky.

We "up north" people pride ourselves on the wonders we have—great waterways, forests, wildlife, trails—the list goes on and on. But we should not forget that dark skies are becoming increasingly hard to find worldwide, and we are blessed with truly dark skies not only in designated dark sky sites such as the Headlands, but in many places in northern Michigan.

The beauty of this bill is that approving it helps direct the light where it belongs—down and around rather than being wasted by dissipating upwards. It preserves dark skies not only for the casual viewer, but for those of us more involved in astronomical study.

Please convince your colleagues that this bill goes strongly in the right direction to safeguard our Michigan dark skies, and thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

Dr. Bryan P. Shumaker (cystokid@charter.net)

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President, Northern Michigan Astronomy Club (www.nomac.net)

Raven Hill Discovery Center

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